

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 – 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended). A method for preventing termite damage to man-made structures comprising the steps of:

mixing disodium octaborate tetrahydrate, water, and at least one glycol to form a borate solution which comprises from about 10 to about 30% by weight, disodium octaborate tetrahydrate:

obtaining a cementitious building component having an exposed surface which is susceptible to the formation of termite shelter tubes:

coating the exposed surface of the cementitious building component with the borate solution in an amount sufficient to provide a surface concentration of borates on the exposed surface: and

incorporating the coated cementitious building component into a man-made structure wherein the surface concentration of borates provides a termite barrier which is effective to prevent termites from forming tubes across the surface of the cementitious building component.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 15, wherein the coated cementitious building component is incorporated into the man-made structure at that portion between the ground and wood or cellulosic materials, wherein the cementitious building component forms a non-traversable termite barrier.

Claim 17 (Original). The method of claim 15, wherein the termite damage to be prevented is that caused by Reticulitermes, Heterotermes or Coptotermes.

Claims 18 – 19 (Cancelled).

Claim 20 (Original). The method of claim 15, wherein the borate solution is applied to all external surfaces of the building component.

Claims 21 – 23 (Cancelled).

Claim 24 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 15, wherein the coating on the cementitious building component does not penetrate throughout the interior of the cementitious building component.

Claim 25 (Cancelled).

Claim 26 (Original). The method of claim 15, wherein the borate solution is applied by spraying, dipping, brushing, roller coating, pressure immersion, or gaseous application.

Claims 27 – 38 (Cancelled).

Claim 39 (Previously Presented). The method of Claim 15, wherein the borate solution comprises at least one glycol selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, monoethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented). The method of Claim 15, wherein the borate solution comprises propylene glycol.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented). The method of Claim 15, wherein the borate solution comprises monoethylene glycol.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented). The method of Claim 15, wherein the borate solution comprises diethylene glycol.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented). The method of Claim 15, the exposed surface of the cementitious building component is coated with an average coating of from about 0.0005 g/cm^2 to about 1.0 g/cm^2 of the borate solution.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented). The method of Claim 15, the exposed surface of the cementitious building component is coated with an average coating of from about 0.04 g/cm^2 to about 0.10 g/cm^2 of the borate solution.

Claim 45 – 46 (Cancelled).

Claim 47 (New). A method for preventing termite damage to man-made structures comprising the steps of:

mixing disodium octaborate tetrahydrate, water, and at least one glycol to form a borate solution which comprises from about 10 to about 30%, by weight, disodium octaborate tetrahydrate:

obtaining a cementitious building component having an exposed surface which is susceptible to the formation of termite shelter tubes;

incorporating the cementitious building component into a man-made structure

coating the exposed surface of the cementitious building component, after being incorporated into the man-made structure, with the borate solution in an amount sufficient to provide a surface concentration of borates on the exposed surface; and

wherein the surface concentration of borates provides a termite barrier which is effective to prevent termites from forming tubes across the surface of the cementitious building component.

Claim 48 (New). The method of claim 47, wherein the cementitious building component is incorporated into the man-made structure at that portion between the ground and wood or cellulosic materials, wherein the cementitious building component forms a non-traversable termite barrier.

Claim 49 (New). The method of claim 47, wherein the termite damage to be prevented is that caused by *Reticulitermes*, *Heterotermes* or *Coptotermes*.

Claim 50 (New). The method of claim 47, wherein the borate solution is applied to all external surfaces of the building component.

Claim 51 (New). The method of claim 47, wherein the coating on the cementitious building component does not penetrate throughout the interior of the cementitious building component.

Claim 52 (New). The method of claim 47, wherein the borate solution is applied by spraying, dipping, brushing, roller coating, pressure immersion, or gaseous application.

Claim 53 (New). The method of Claim 47, wherein the borate solution comprises at least one glycol selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, monoethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 54 (New). The method of Claim 47, wherein the borate solution comprises propylene glycol.

Claim 55 (New). The method of Claim 47, wherein the borate solution comprises monoethylene glycol.

Claim 56 (New). The method of Claim 47, wherein the borate solution comprises diethylene glycol.

Claim 57 (New). The method of Claim 47, the exposed surface of the cementitious building component is coated with an average coating of from about 0.0005 g/cm² to about 1.0 g/cm² of the borate solution.

Claim 58 (New). The method of Claim 47, the exposed surface of the cementitious building component is coated with an average coating of from about 0.04 g/cm² to about 0.10 g/cm² of the borate solution.